THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Entertainment oriented and programmes on women, youth, children, sports, current affairs, etc., are telecast on this channel.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(e) Proposals are initially screened by a Short-listing Committee consisting of Doordarshan officers and outside experts on the basis of programme requirements of Doordarshan. Thereafter, the shortlisted proposals are placed before the Screening-cum-Costing Committee consisting of Programme officers, Duty Director General (Finance) and the representatives of Ministry of Home Affairs. The porposals are accepted based upon the following broad criteria:—

(i) Relevance of the story, theme or the subject to the requirements of the channel.

(ii) Treatment of the subject/story line.

(iii) Conformity to the Telecast Code.

(iv) Track Record of the Production Team.

Private Satellite TV Channels

2528. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that some private satellite T.V. Channels have become "pay channel" due to non-availability of advertisements for sponsoring their programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether this will affect the working of cable operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) and (b) Some private TV channels are encrypted when the signal is transmitted from the satellite. Therefore, cable operators need to use a decoder for providing a normally viewable signal to the user homes. These private TV pay channels charge a specified sum for accessing their programmes. Doordarshan does not have any pay channel. The subscription or fee charged by private TV pay channels from cable operators is a matter between private parties and Government is not involved in the transaction.

(c) Cable network in the country is continuing to grow at a fast pace. So far there is no visible adverse effect of the mechanism of private TV pay channels on the functioning or expansion of cable networks.

Recognition of Filming as an Industry

2529. Dr. C. NARAYANA REDDY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Filiming has been recognized as an Industy in India;

(b) if so, the necessary orders have been issued; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not declaring it as an Industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) to (c) Yes sir. In May 1998 the Government conferred "Industry" status to the film sector with the broad objective of facilitating its all round development. As a result several fiscal benefits were granted to the film industry. The Ministry of Finance has also been requested to include the film sector on the list of activities eligible for film financing in the IDBI Act 1964.